

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9200
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5875

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IS, XF

SUBJECT: MRS MEIR REVIEWS ALIGNMENT'S PERFORMANCE

SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER DELIVERED ONE AND A HALF HOUR SPEECH
REVIEWING ALIGNMENT'S FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS OF
LAST

FOUR YEARS TO FINAL SESSION SEVENTH KNESSET JULY 25. MRS MEIR'S
ASSESSMENT FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICY REITERATED WELL KNOWN GOI
POSITIONS ON NEGOTIATIONS, OPENNESS TO BORDER RECTIFICATIONS AND
PALESTINIAN QUESTION. SPEECH UNDERLINED GOI SATISFACTION AND
SELF-CONFIDENCE WITH SECURITY SITUATION DESPITE ABSENCE OF PEACE
SETTLEMENT AND CONTINUED TERRORIST ACTIONS OUTSIDE GOI
BORDERS. TWO THIRDS OF ADDRESS DEDICATED TO DOMESTIC SOCIAL
ISSUES EMPHASIZING SHIFT IN EMPHASIS OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY AS
LONG AS CEASEFIRE CONTINUES IN AREA. DOMESTIC ISSUES WILL BE
MAJOR ELEMENT LABOR PARTY ELECTION CAMPAIGN. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER'S REVIEW OF GOI FOREIGN, DEFENSE AND SOCIAL
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POLICY IN LAST FOUR YEARS DELIVERED TO CLOSING SESSION SEVENTH

KNESSET JULY 25. SECTION ON FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICY DID NOT BREAK NEW GROUND BUT UNDERLINED GOI SATISFACTION WITH SECURITY SITUATION SINCE AUGUST 1970 CEASE FIRE. MRS MEIR SAID THAT, IN ABSENCE OF PEACE, GOI HAS ADOPTED POLICY OF MAINTAINING CEASE FIRE ON BASIS OF RECIPROCITY. CEASE FIRE ATTAINED BY EFFORTS OF GOI, AID OF USG AND STRENGTH IDF. CONTINUATION OF CEASE FIRE, STRENGTHENING FRIENDLY TIES WITH USG, SUPPLIES OF ARMAMENTS AND EQUIPMENT VITAL FOR SELF-DEFENSE, ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT AND BLOCKING POLITICAL MOVES FOR IMPOSED SOLUTIONS INIMICAL TO GOI INTERESTS ARE CORNERSTONES CURRENT GOI POLICY.

2. MRS MEIR SAID THAT GOI SUPPORTS RELAXATION TENSIONS BETWEEN SUPER POWERS BUT IS CONCERNED THAT PROCESS OF RAPPROACHEMENT SHOULD NOT AFFECT GOI'S VITAL INTERESTS AS RESULT OF SOVIET EFFORTS TO HELP ITS ARAB ALLIES. "WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO THE US GOVERNMENT THAT THE NEEDS OF PEACE IN THE REGION ARE PERFECTLY COMPATIBLE WITH A STRONG AND INDEPENDENT ISRAEL IN DEFENSIBLE BORDERS. I HOPE THAT THE USGOVERNMENT IN THE FUTURE WILL NOT DEVIATE FROM ITS POLICY, WILL NOT LEND A HAND TO IMPOSED SOLUTIONS, AND WILL SHOW UNDERSTANDING FOR ISRAEL'S VITAL INTERESTS."

3. PRIME MINISTER REITERATED GOI REFUSAL TO RETURN TO JUNE 1967 BORDERS BUT REPEATED WILLINGNESS TO MOVE IDF FORCES BACK FROM CANAL IN FRAMEWORK OF PARTIAL AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT. SHE SAID THAT SETTLEMENT POLICY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAS STRENGTHENED ISRAEL'S SECURITY. "PREPARATIONS AND PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THIS IMPORTANT ACTIVITY, WHETHER RURAL OR URBAN SETTLEMENT."

4. ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION, MRS MEIR RESTATED GOI POSITION THAT THERE IS ROOM FOR ONLY TWO STATES, ONE JEWISH AND ONE ARAB, BETWEEN MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND THE DESERT. DENYING COMPARISON BETWEEN TWO AND ONE-HALF MILLION ARABS WITHOUT HOMELAND AND DIASPORA JEWRY, MRS MEIR STATED THAT REFUGEE PROBLEM CONTINUES BECAUSE ARAB STATES OBSTRUCT SOLUTION. OPEN BRIDGES POLICY AND ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT IN WEST BANK AND GAZA REFLECT GOI CONCERN WITH BETTERMENT CONDITION ARAB RESIDENTS UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY GOVERNMENT. TALK IN UN AND BY DIPLOMATS OF "LEGITIMATE INTERESTS" OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, MRS MEIR OBSERVED, DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE

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TO ATTAINMENT OF PEACE. "THESE STATEMENTS...AWAKEN FALSE HOPES AND STIMULATE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS." PROBLEMS OF ARAB RESIDENTS UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY GOVERNMENT "CAN AND MUST BE SOLVED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF PEACE BETWEEN US AND THE ARAB STATES."

5. IN UNUSUAL SHIFT IN EMPHASIS FROM INTERNATIONAL TO DOMESTIC ISSUES, MRS MEIR DECLARED THAT PRESERVATION OF CEASE FIRE

PERMITS GREATER SHARE OF NATIONAL RESOURCES TO BE DEVOTED TO SOCIAL ILLS. CURRENT BUDGET FOR FIRST TIME ALLOCATES MORE FUNDS TO SOCIAL POLICY THAN TO DEFENSE. BEYOND MERELY PROVIDING SUBSISTENCE, NEED IS NOW TO NARROW SOCIAL GAP. GOVERNMENT PLANS INCREASED FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS OF INCOME MAINTENANCE DIRECTED ESPECIALLY TOWARDS LARGE FAMILIES, LOW INCOME GROUPS, AND PENSIONERS. IN EDUCATION, OPPORTUNITIES AT THE PRE-COLLEGE LEVEL HAVE BEEN EXPANDED AND NEW UNIVERSITIES CREATED. NEW HOUSING SCHEMES WILL PAY MORE ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS OF OLD-TIME RESIDENTS IN ADDITION TO THOSE OF NEW IMMIGRANTS. SHE REVIEWED RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY HER COMMITTEE ON DISADVANTAGED YOUTH (TEL AVIV A-195) WHICH DEALT WITH PROBLEM OF LOW INCOMES, OVER-CROWDED HOUSING, HEALTH, AND LACK OF ADEQUATE EDUCATION. SHE NOTED THAT EXPANSION OF SOCIAL ROLE REQUIRES FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMY INCLUDING DEFENSE PRODUCTION, ENERGY, PORT FACILITIES, AND TRANSPORT. PRIMIN ALSO ELABORATED ON PROBLEMS OF IMMIGRANT ABSORPTION AND NEED TO CONTINUE CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWRY.

6. COMMENT. WHILE LABOR PARTY WILL EMPHASIZE ITS FOREIGN AND SECURITY ACHIEVEMENTS IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN, TWO MEMBERS LABOR PARTY TOLD REPORTING OFFICER THAT MEIR SPEECH SIGNALS SIGNIFICANT SHIFT TO DOMESTIC PRIORITIES. LABOR PARTY HAS BEEN FAULTED BY OPPOSITION FOR LACK OF ACTION ON SOCIAL ISSUES. SOCIAL THEMES WILL LOOM LARGE IN CAMPAIGN; PROSPECTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS WILL BE CONTINGENT ON SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS AND COMPOSITION POLITICAL FORCES IN NEXT KNESSET.
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